

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 133641

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, HK

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: HONG KONG 6209

1. WE APPRECIATE TREMENDOUS BURDEN WHICH CONGEN FACED
AND SUCCESSFULLY MET IN PROCESSING RESETTLE-
MENT OF SELF-EVACUATED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. IT IS
GRATIFYING TO LEARN OF THE CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN THE
INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE RESETTLEMENT EFFORT IN HONG

KONG AND THE HUMANITARIAN ATTITUDE OF THE HKG HAS BEEN
NOTED. POSTS COMMENTS ARE WELL TAKEN AND ARE APPRECIATED
BY THE TASK FORCE. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT OUT-
STANDING PROBLEMS REGARDING ONWARD MOVEMENT OF THESE
REFUGEES EITHER TO US RECEPTION CENTERS OR TO RESPONSIBLE
US SPONSORS MAY NOT BE AS DIFFICULT AS FORESEEN BY POST.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF THE ADMISSIBILITY OF
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SIBLINGS OF US CITIZENS, PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS, AND/OR
USG-ASSISTED EVACUEES, POST SHOULD REFER TO STATE 126797.
ALTHOUGH CABLE SENT ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC POSTS,
MESSAGE MAY HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED AND IS THEREFORE BEING

REPEATED FOR YOUR GUIDANCE. WITH REGARD TO VERIFYING US FAMILY TIES, WE SUGGEST THAT AMERICAN RED CROSS BE FOCAL POINT FOR CONTACTS BETWEEN REFUGEES AND US FAMILY MEMBERS.

3. WE REGRET ANY INCONVENIENCE WHICH MAY HAVE ARISEN IN OUR GUIDANCE RE CLEARANCE PROCEDURES. AS POST CAN APPRECIATE, PROCEDURES HERE EVOLVED AS SITUATION HAS DEVELOPED. VISAS FALCON PROCEDURES ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR THOSE REFUGEES ALREADY SCREENED BY INS INSPECTORS. THESE CHECKS ARE REQUIRED ONLY AT POSTS WHERE NO INS INSPECTORS ARE AVAILABLE TO SCREEN REFUGEES.

4. REFUGEES GOING DIRECTLY TO RECEPTION CENTERS OR TO GUAM TO JOIN FAMILIES NEED NOT OBTAIN FULL MEDICAL CLEARANCE LOCALLY BUT SHOULD BE SCREENED FOR ANY OBVIOUS MEDICAL PROBLEM. IF THE REFUGEE IS GOING DIRECTLY INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY A MEDICAL EXAMINATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN HONG KONG AS IS DONE WITH NORMAL IMMIGRANT APPLICANTS TRAVELING TO THE US. IF INDIVIDUAL IS UNABLE TO PAY FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION HIS SPONSOR SHOULD BE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE NECESSARY FUNDS. RECENTLY IN CONTACTS WITH SPONSORS WE HAVE BEEN URGING THAT THEY PROVIDE REFUGEE WITH SMALL STIPEND TO TAKE CARE OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

5. WITH REGARD TO TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES, IF THE REFUGEE IS DESTITUTE AND HIS SPONSOR IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ICEM WILL BE REQUESTED TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION. KISSINGER

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